

Over his tenure, Mr. Berry has set a high standard with his dedication to his job and has acquired knowledge and experience which has been valuable to his company and its work for the United States government. Fifty years with an organization is a remarkable testament of this tireless Texan. I know my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Berry on his accomplishments and wishing him continued success with Lockheed Martin.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLES WOODS

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the recent death of one of Alabama's most remarkable men, Charles Woods of Dothan, AL. Mr. Woods, who was 83 years old, died October 17 in Dothan after an extended illness. Mr. Woods lived an extraordinary life. Orphaned until age 6, he worked hard and became a decorated World War II pilot who was severely burned in a plane crash in India as he and his crew were on their way to China over the Himalayan Mountains. Mr. Woods was riding as check pilot in a C-109 supply aircraft when the accident occurred. The plane crashed off the end of the runway, and Captain Woods was able to open the window on his side of the cockpit and stumble away from the flaming aircraft. The training pilot and two other crew members perished. That crash left Mr. Woods scarred but not beaten. His powerful drive to survive his burns was the same drive that made him a highly successful businessman.

After the war, Mr. Woods established successful real estate and media businesses that included the launching of Dothan's first television station, WTVY-TV. Still, he had a deep interest in politics and ran a number of high profile races that did not lead to victory but captured the attention of the people of Alabama and certainly his opponents. I well remember as a teenager watching his dramatic story produced as part of his first campaign for Governor. It was a powerful piece. I believe this early "infomercial" was a breakthrough in political campaigning and now, with the advent of cable television, has become more common.

He ran a strong race for the U.S. Senate in 1996 and his surge in the polls got the attention of all of us in that Republican primary. After I got in the runoff, I was very pleased that he chose to immediately endorse my candidacy. He was gracious and affirming. I valued that highly because everyone knew that Charles Woods was a courageous and independent minded person whose goal was to improve the lives of all Alabamians. His endorsement gave my campaign a real boost. Since that time, I had the opportunity to talk with him on a number of occasions, to appreciate his insight and decisiveness, and to become friends. He spoke to me of his faith on more than one occasion.

Mr. Woods' 10 children, 17 grandchildren and one great grandchild have received a tremendous legacy. Charles

Woods was truly a giant of a man who overcame tremendous adversity to achieve extraordinary things. His was an American story of almost unbelievable achievement.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND JAPAN ON SOCIAL SECURITY—PM 96

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433 (e)(1)), I transmit herewith the Agreement between the United States of America and Japan on Social Security, which consists of two separate instruments: a principal agreement and an administrative arrangement. The Agreement was signed at Washington on February 19, 2004.

The United States-Japan Agreement is similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries. The United States-Japan Agreement contains all provisions mandated by section 233 and other provisions which I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4).

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report prepared by the Social Security Administration explaining the key points of the Agreement, along with a paragraph-by-paragraph explanation of the provisions of

the principal agreement and the related administrative arrangement. Annexed to this report is the report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, a report on the effect of the Agreement on income and expenditures of the United States Social Security program and the number of individuals affected by the Agreement.

The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreement and related documents to me.

I commend to the Congress the United States-Japan Social Security Agreement and related documents.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 17, 2004.

#### REPORT RELATIVE TO THE NON-SUITABILITY OF THE SQUIRREL RIVER IN ALASKA AS AN ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM—PM 97

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

I transmit herewith the enclosed study, findings, and report for the Squirrel River in Alaska. The report and my recommendations are submitted pursuant to my authority under Article II, section 3, of the Constitution of the United States, and consistent with section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) Act, Public Law 90-542, as amended. The Squirrel River suitability study was authorized by Public Law 96-487 (Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act).

The study conducted by the Bureau of Land Management determined that all 100 miles of the river are nonsuitable for inclusion in the National WSR System. Consistent with the study, I recommend that the Congress take no action to designate the river. The withdrawal provided by section 5(a) of the WSR Act would expire within 3 years of the date of this message (unless other action is taken by the Congress). Approximately 81,501 acres of State-selected lands would be opened to mineral entry although mineral potential has been assessed as very low and there are no past or active mining claims.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 17, 2004.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 110. Joint resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.